



dennisrockstroh
actionline

San Jose street sweepers miss mark, residents say

Q Street sweeping (Action Line, Oct. 27) in San Jose — one of my favorite pet peeves.

I should take before and after photos of the street sweeping that is done on the streets in my neighborhood.

The whole procedure is a joke.

The sweeper is probably about two to three feet from our curb and none of the debris is picked up.

The only indication that the sweeper has passed are the wetness marks the cleaner leaves.

JZ
San Jose

A I know, J.Z. There is always much to clean up in front of my house after the sweeper has passed.

Q I never see a street sweeper where I live near Fruitdale Avenue and Race Street in San Jose even though I have lived here for several years.

I have contacted different people from the city of San Jose, but I still don't see a street sweeper. The streets around me have had the same old trash in them for a long time.

Rob Hall
San Jose

A A common complaint, Rob.

Q I think that the responsibility of cleaning the street should be on the homeowner.

The street sweeping machine does a poor job. The driver drives too fast and often pushes the debris from the curb onto the street which later settles back to the curb.

If homeowners take pride, they can sweep and lightly water down the area in front of their homes so that our money does not have to pay for an inefficient job. Most of the money goes in the contractor's pocket.

If certain neighbors do not do their share, then they can be fined by the city.

I think that this will save several million dollars a year and we will have cleaner streets.

Sam
San Jose

A Interesting idea, Sam. Street sweeping serves two purposes — to make sure the storm drains do not get clogged and to clean the street.

It makes no sense to have us dump our yard trimmings on the street each week, then have the street sweeper come by only once a month.

The sweeper used to come by every week.

Now our bills are higher and the service lower.

And, you're right, Sam. If we want our neighborhoods to be neat and clean, we have to assume some of the duties ourselves.

And we'll still be charged for it.

Meanwhile, there is a way to let City Hall know of your displeasure. If the sweeper misses your neighborhood or does a lousy job, call the city at (408) 535-3500 and file a complaint or clip this column and send it to your council member.

Here is how to reach Action Line:

■ Mail: San Jose Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, Calif. 95190

■ E-mail: actionline@mercurynews.com

■ www.mercurynews.com. Click Columnists, then Action Line.

■ Phone recording: (888) 688-6400.

■ Fax: (408) 288-8060.

Please include full name, address and phone number.

Because of the volume of requests, I cannot respond to everyone.

For tips, self-help, news and discussion, see the Consumer Action Line Web log (<http://blogs.mercurynews.com>).